

## Introduction to Manga Studies

### The Historical Development of the Japanese Visual Language

#### Section 1

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#### 【Course Outline / Description】

The course is a survey of the historical and theoretical research on manga from the 19th century to the present time. This course examines the changing relationship between manga and modern and contemporary Japan in 5 areas of academic manga research: manga genres, arts, education, politic, gender, and identity. Following the key research works by manga researchers, Jaqueline Berndt, Yoshimura Kazuma, Miyamoto Hirohito, Ito Go, historian Shimizu Isao, and art critic Ishiko Junzo, Sawaragi Noi, the course will explore manga's cultural impacts on Japanese society and beyond. The course will begin with an introduction to the historical development of the concept of manga, from the introduction of caricature in the 19 century to manga published on SNS today. Followed by the introduction to the history and development of manga genres from political cartoons to shoujo manga, shonen manga, educational manga (教育マンガ), and Autobiographical comics (エッセイマンガ.) The final part of the course will be the introduction to the political and social relationship between the history of manga and manga genres. At the end of the course, students will be asked to reflect and present their personal connection to one of the ablow topics.

#### Section 2

#### 【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】

The goal of this course is to develop students' critical analysis skills in the interpretation of visual phenomena and to learn to understand the complex social, cultural, and political power structures beneath the visual language of the manga. Subject matter in this course contributes to students' cultural literacy while instructional materials and classroom assignments introduce basic research problems and techniques. By the end of the course, students will acquire the ability to both formulate academic research proposals and present their research in a formal academic setting.

#### Section 3

#### 【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

Students will receive research papers, news articles, or links to videos that relate to the weekly topic during the first class of the week. During the second class, students will be asked to reflect (writing assignment & class participation) on that weekly topic with their own experience and understanding of the topic.

	Subject	Content
Lecture 1	Course Introduction	Introduction to the course contents Homework: writing assignment
Lecture 2	Experience of Manga	Group discussion on various ways people experience manga, within Japan and internationally

<b>Lecture 3</b>	Manga history: Formation of Manga: Part 1	An overview of the history of manga from 19 to the early 20 century. Homework: writing assignment
<b>Lecture 4</b>	Manga history: Formation of Manga Part 2	Examination and discussion on the difference between various types of manga before and during the early Meiji period
<b>Lecture 5</b>	Manga history: Modern Japan: Part 1	An overview of the history of manga from the early 20-century Homework: writing assignment
<b>Lecture 6</b>	Manga history: Modern Japan: Part 2	Watch: Kitazawa Rakuten movie Homework: writing assignment
<b>Lecture 7</b>	Manga history: Postwar and Contemporary Japan: Part 1	An overview of the history of manga from 1948 to late 1990s. Homework: writing assignment
<b>Lecture 8</b>	Manga history: Postwar and Contemporary Japan: Part 2	Examination and discussion on the difference between the postwar and contemporary manga
<b>Lecture 9</b>	Introduction to Manga Studies Manga as a Visual language	An overview of <i>Manga Studies</i> by Yoshimura Kazuma and Jaqueline Berndt. Homework: watch online video lecture on the manga hyougenron, writing assignment
<b>Lecture 10</b>	Introduction to Manga Studies Manga as a Visual language	Introduction to the Manga Hyogenron by Manga researcher Natsume Fusanosuke. Group exercise on analyzing manga
<b>Lecture 11</b>	Manga research	Guidance on finding a research topic and writing a research proposal. Homework: writing a research proposal
<b>Lecture 12</b>	Research guidance	1-on-1 guidance on writing a research proposal. Homework: writing a research

		proposal
<b>Lecture 13</b>	Research presentation	Presentation: Students will each give a short presentation about their research proposal Homework: short response on the content of the presentations, and finalizing the draft version of the research proposal
<b>Lecture 14</b>	Research presentation	Presentation: Students will each give a short presentation about their research proposal Homework: short response on the content of the presentations, finalizing the draft version of the research proposal (due next class)
<b>Lecture 15</b>	Artists and their creations: Part 1	Introduction to the history of Tokiwaso and the postwar manga artists. Homework: writing assignment
<b>Lecture 16</b>	Artists and their creations: Part 2	Watch: Tokiwaso movie Homework: writing assignment
<b>Lecture 17</b>	Manga Genre studies: An Overview	Introduction to the historical development of various manga genres Homework: writing assignment
<b>Lecture 18</b>	Manga Genre studies: Shounen Shoujo Manga	Examination and discussion on the difference between the early and contemporary shoujo and shounen manga
<b>Lecture 19</b>	Manga as an Educational tool: Part 1	Introduction to the educational manga and manga exhibition Homework: writing assignment
<b>Lecture 20</b>	Manga as an Educational tool: Part 2	Examination and discussion on the difference between the various educational function of manga
<b>Lecture 21</b>	Politic, Gender, and Identity A	Introduction to the research and debates on the sociopolitical relationship between manga and Japanese society.

		Homework: writing assignment
<b>Lecture 22</b>	Politic, Gender, and Identity A	Group discussion on the political challenges of manga today
<b>Lecture 23</b>	Politic, Gender, and Identity B	Introduction to the research and debates on the genders and self-representation within manga titles. Homework: writing assignment
<b>Lecture 24</b>	Politic, Gender, and Identity B	Group discussion on the effect of manga on its readers' sense of identity
<b>Lecture 25</b>	Presentation guidance	Guidance on how to create a presentation for an academic conference. Homework: creating a 20 minutes presentation and finalizing the research proposal
<b>Lecture 26</b>	Presentation guidance	1-on-1 guidance on creating a presentation for an academic conference. Homework: creating a 20 minutes presentation and finalizing the research proposal
<b>Lecture 27</b>	Final Presentation	Student presentation: 20 minutes plus 10 minutes of discussion Homework: short response on the content of the presentations, finalizing the research proposal
<b>Lecture 28</b>	Final Presentation	Student presentation: 20 minutes plus 10 minutes of discussion Homework: short response on the content of the presentations, finalizing the research proposal
<b>Lecture 29</b>	Final Presentation	Student presentation: 20 minutes plus 10 minutes of discussion Homework: short response on the content of the presentations, finalizing the research proposal

<b>Lecture 30</b>	Final Presentation	Student presentation: 20 minutes plus 10 minutes of discussion, research proposal due
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### 【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

Materials, handouts, slides will be provided by the instructor. While the course will focus on the books in the suggested reading list, students are not required to purchase these books.

#### Suggested readings:

- *Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art*, Scott McCloud, William Morrow Paperbacks  
ISBN-10: 9780060976255
- 『マンガ・スタディーズ』吉村和真, ジャクリーヌ・ベルント, 人文書院, ISBN: 9784409001134
- 『図説 漫画の歴史』清水勲, 河出書房新社, ISBN: 4309726119
- 『テヅカ・イズ・デッド: ひらかれたマンガ表現論へ』伊藤剛, 星海社, ISBN: 4061385569

#### Recommended resources:

- Crash Course Navigating Digital Information: <https://youtu.be/pLlv2o6UfTU>
- National Diet Library Digital Collections: <https://dl.ndl.go.jp/>

### Section 4

#### 【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

- Written response: 30%
- Class participation: 30%
- Midterm project: 10%
- Final project: 30%

Writing response: Students will be asked to present a 400 words response to the content of the lecture and the assigned reading each week, which accounts for 30% of the total grade.

Class participation: Class attendance(20%) and participation(10%) in the group dissection will account for another 30% of the total grade.

Midterm Project: Reflecting and showcasing their understanding of the course content, a research proposal draft, and a short presentation on this proposal will serve as a midterm exam for this course, which accounts for 10% of the total grade.

Final Project: Reflecting and showcasing their understanding of the course content, a finalized research proposal, and a 20 minutes formal presentation will serve as the final exam for this course, which will account for 30% of the total grade.

### Section 5

#### 【Additional Information】

This is a lecture-seminar course in which students' participation in classroom discussions, as well as presentation, will be evaluated as much as their participation during the lecture. Beyond regular class hours, students are also expected to conduct their own research on the course contents, relating their personal experience and understanding of the subjects using either online databases, libraries, or conduct fieldwork in the local bookstores.